

# clarke university COURIER

May 4, 2012

Dubuque, Iowa

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Issue No. 9

## Students wow crowd as opening act

### opinion



A freshman and senior take on this past school year.

### A & E



Students have fun during May Daze festivities.

### Sports



A follow-up on baseball and softball seasons.

### weather



30 percent chance of scattered storms High 78. Low 55.

hilarly post  
staff writer

Two Clarke students took the Kehl Center stage to open for the well-known band Thompson Square, who performed at Clarke April, 27.

Rebecca Brosnan, a junior musical theatre major with a minor in philosophy and Max McNett, a senior drama major, performed together previously with Barton Hollow at Clarke's Musical Menus event. After the performance, faculty members approached Brosnan and McNett and encouraged them to talk to Mike Cyze, executive director of communication at Clarke, about possibly opening for Thompson Square.

"After Max and Rebecca performed at Musical Menus on Broadway, a number of people suggested that they would be great to open for Thompson Square," said Cyze. "We thought it was a great opportunity to highlight two Clarke students in conjunction with a national performer. Thompson Square's management quickly approved having them open and the rest is history. They were outstanding; I think they had the time of their lives and we couldn't be more pleased to have had them representing Clarke."



Rebecca Brosnan and Max McNett perform on stage as the opening act for Thompson Square last Friday.

"A lot of people had said that we should try and open for Thompson Square, but at the time, I don't think we really

thought it was even possible," said McNett.

After Clarke contacted Thompson Square's management and the manager listened to a recording of Brosnan and McNett, an agreement was made and the two students had the opening slot. "I was absolutely thrilled and in awe," said Brosnan "We immediately started to create

a list of songs we knew well that would also entertain the country audience we would have. Max and I are not used to playing country music, but we managed to find songs that we liked that fit the mood while also including a variety of genres we enjoy performing."

"It didn't really hit me right away, McNett said. "I don't listen to much country music, especially contemporary country, and I had never heard of Thompson Square. It wasn't until I called my mom to tell her and she freaked out that I realized, "Whoa, this is actually a really big deal."

"By the time the big day rolled around and we were in sound check and meeting the crew and everything...it was just so surreal. I've been playing in bands since I was 14, but this was unlike anything I had ever been a part of before."

**Continued on Page 4**

## Clarke U named A "Tree Campus USA"

ethan abney  
staff writer

Clarke University became a Tree Campus just in time for Arbor Day, April, 27. Clarke has just joined the five elite colleges in Iowa that are designated Tree Campuses. And for those colleges, Arbor Day is an important holiday.

Here at Clarke we have a couple of different celebrations for Arbor Day. Over the past couple of weeks you may have noticed some trees around campus with bright and colorful scarves around them. These are hand-made scarves, known as tree scarves or "granny graffiti," says Julie Beck, accounts payable coordinator and a member of Clarke's Tree Campus Advisory Council, who went to Des Moines and accepted the Tree Campus award for Clarke. The tree scarves were originally made to add color and create awareness of trees in big cities around the country. On Arbor Day Clarke also plants a tree every year. This year the tree was planted in front of Mary Fran Hall.

To become a part of Tree Campus USA colleges have to meet certain requirements. You have to create a committee; Clarke's is called Campus Tree Advisory Council, and it consists of four full-time members and three advisory members. You must create a tree care plan and must make sure you do not do any of the prohibited practices, which include things like no historic tree shall be removed as the result of construction projects or a change in landscape. The committee must also have a protection and preservation policy and have a campus tree terminology. On campus, the college must dedicate annual expenditures for having a campus tree care plan and Arbor Day observance and service learning.



**A walk down tree history on the Clarke campus**

Freshman philosophy major AJ Worden walks in between the pines in front of Mary Josita Hall during Norm Freund's Historical Tree Tour on May 1.

**Continued on Page 4**



## Freshman Year; Senior Year: Those Special Memories

jazzy schillinger and  
rolando sanchez  
staff writers

### A Freshman Learns

I am Jazzy Schillinger and this year at Clarke I was fresh. Due to my involvement with the women's volleyball team, I was here two weeks earlier than most of the other students because of the grueling pre-season training schedule requiring the team to practice twice a day. This was the scariest two weeks of my freshman life. To be honest, I think I was more worried about impressing the upper-classmen rather than doing well in practices.

The advantages of being here earlier than other freshmen were crucial. That week gave us time to perfect the process of getting our cards scanned correctly, figuring out what exactly "flex" is, and diligently studying the layout of our huge campus to make sure we don't make fools of ourselves on the first day of school.

Volleyball is probably one of the main reasons I made friends so quickly. The beginning of the school year is the beginning of the volleyball season so we are constantly around each other, whether we like it or not. During those first couple of weeks, I had the chance to best friendships with girls that I now call my best friends.

Some of my biggest fears coming into my first year of college were not knowing how to grocery shop for myself, having a roommate I didn't get along with, and gaining the infamous "Freshman 15." Fortunately, I figured out how to buy groceries on my own, my roommate and I were both on the volleyball team, and I'm pretty sure I didn't gain the 15 pounds...but you never know.

Coming from a high school a little bigger than Clarke, I wasn't sure what to expect. Once move-in day arrived, we started CONNECT. Even though it was annoying to get up every morning and have our days planned out for us hour by hour, it did help me meet a lot more new students.

One thing I wasn't expecting was having the chance to be so close to my professors. I love that I can get a hold of them whenever I need to, and it's nice to know that they care about our success in school as much as we do.

Another thing that was unexpected is having so many foreign students attending such a small university. It still puzzles me that they found Dubuque, Iowa, coming from places

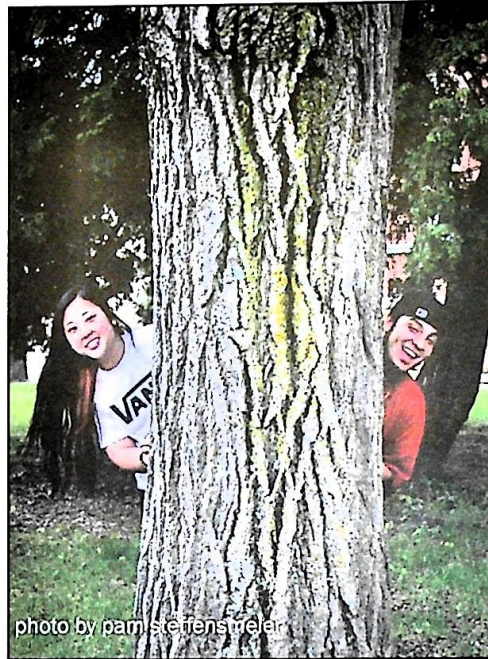


photo by pam steffensmeier

as far away as London, Belfast, Sydney, and Berlin. But I'm glad they're here because it gives me the chance to try my best to impersonate every one of their accents. I'm getting pretty good at Paul Cave's British accent.

Being at such a small school has its downfalls too. Everyone knows everyone, and everyone knows everyone's business. Rumors and gossip spread like wildfire.

Even though freshman year is one of the scariest transitions of your life, I am glad that I had the chance to experience it at a smaller school. It made it so much easier to form close relationships with so many different people, mostly because I am around most of the same people every day.

If I had the chance to give some advice to future Clarkies, I would say, try as hard as possible not to be a boy because you won't have the luxury of having an elevator like the ladies, never drop your cup in the cafeteria, and most importantly, don't try and take a small plate of salad from the salad bar in the SAC without paying for it... you will be caught.

### A Senior Reflects

Over the last four years, I have encountered a lot of fun times alongside with the stressful ones. Since I am originally from San Diego, coming to the Midwest was a huge culture shock for me. The way of life is very different, the way people drive, and even how friendly people are. Although I did not start my college career at Clarke, the curriculum for an incoming freshman is the same everywhere you go, filled with homework, presentations, projects and a series of dreadful tests that haunt you every Friday.

Freshman year at Dakota Wesleyan University was a huge learning experience for me because when it came to buying groceries, making a doctor's appointment, getting up for school, and even ordering pizza, I had to do it all by myself. No more mommy to take care of the little things; it was all up to me. Living on my own made me a lot more responsible. Being so far away from home, I couldn't just call

my brother or mom to come help me with anything; I had to figure it out on my own.

My brother advised me that if I wanted to manage money well, I needed to get a Work-Study job, so I worked at the daycare on campus to keep up with my college lifestyle. Getting a job put a little bit of money in my pocket, and helped me become more responsible and disciplined. It was a challenge to juggle school, baseball and work.

In high school, I probably went into my library a handful of times, but once I reached college, I was in and out of the library about five times a day. At first, I thought I would never make it through college, but like anything else in life, it takes some getting used to and some confidence and tons of optimism.

My sophomore year at Dakota Wesleyan University, I got an apartment with five of my best friends and I had such a good time, and

## CLEAN's Green

katrina moyna  
contributor

### The Climate and Your Future Job

With graduation a week away, seniors face many challenges. Finding employment in the midst of a recession is probably number one on most graduates' worry lists, but global climate change should definitely make that list.

Who remembers the Texas temperatures in Iowa in mid-January? From rejecting the Keystone XL pipeline, to investments in renewable energy, to an EPA Carbon Pollution Standard for New Power Plants, climate change has been in the news. We turned to Clarke biology professor Andrea Bixler for her professional input.

**Q: What would you say are the most common confusions on climate change?**

**A:** "Some climate change deniers claim, 'It's freezing outside so how can there be global warming?' Climate change is much more than what temperature is it today. Climate is defined as the 30-year average of weather. One unusually warm winter in Iowa does not prove climate change. But when we look at patterns over decades, we see a warming trend. Unfortunately for those who want warmer winters, we also see unpredictable events like more precipitation in one place and less in another, which could lead to food shortages and floods. We have had tremendous unexpected snowstorms, fires, tornadoes, and floods in this country and around the world in recent years."

**Q: Why is it hard for people to unite and take action?**

**A:** "Partly the misunderstandings outlined above and partly the fear that we cannot fix the problems or that it would be incredibly expensive to fix them. I find it depressing that people who have children can't focus more on those children's future. We don't have to give up all meat or our cars. But we can reduce consumption of meat, walk more, turn off our computers at night, turn down the thermostat, and wear a sweater."

**Q: So what effects will climate change have on our jobs?**

**A:** "Climatologists do not possess a crystal ball they can peer into and predict the future. However, it's worth pondering. Mitigation, or making the effects of climate change less severe, can lead to job opportunities. Iowa State University scientists funded by Monsanto are already researching drought-tolerant genetically-modified corn varieties.

The effects of climate change will also occur in areas of the world that do not have the money or technology to deal with large-scale disasters. Waves of immigrants may seek living situations in other countries and we may see more revolts against governments that cannot address the effects of climate change. In his 'New York Times' article, 'The Other Arab Spring,' Thomas Friedman modifies a quote attributed to Leon Trotsky to: 'Well, you may not be interested in climate change, but climate change is interested in you.' My advice to graduating students: Don't look for a job in the ski industry."

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Delmis Rivera  
Rolando Sanchez  
Jazzy Schillinger  
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**Advisor:**  
Diana Russo

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May 4, 2012

## Northern Irish exchange student discovers America and the Midwest

jazy schillinger  
staff writer

Last year if you were to ask Andrew Liggett where Iowa was, he wouldn't even have been able to point it out on a map. Andrew is our Northern Irish friend at Clarke this year. Like many from back home, Andrew didn't even know that Iowa was a state, let alone what Dubuque was. Often when trying to describe his location to friends and family back home he has to base it off of Chicago.

Getting adjusted to Clarke wasn't one of the easiest things Andrew has ever done. "It was very different coming here at the start," Liggett says. "It was difficult for me since I was coming from a place where I was settled and have a lot of friends, then having to make the transition to Clarke not knowing anyone."

What a lot of Americans don't know about Northern Ireland is that it is a separate country from the Republic of Ireland. Northern Irish people even acquire different accents. "It's cool being a wee bit different than everyone else because most Americans don't know there's a difference between the two," Liggett says.

Redheaded and consuming large amounts of alcohol are probably some of the well-known stereotypes about Irish people you have heard. But Liggett would like to point out that he is not a redhead and he only enjoys a social drink. During his time



photo by pam steffensmeyer

here he has also realized that stereotypes about Americans, such as we are loud, overweight, and in love with America, are not necessarily true either.

One of the things Liggett enjoys most about Clarke is how small it is. He says, "It's nice to be able to have contact with your professors at all times and you basically know everyone who goes here and all of your classmates." But he says he still prefers being in a bigger city and at a bigger university.

One of Liggett's favorite things about America is the opportunity he has had to travel. He's been to 11 states so far and by the time he has to go back to Northern Ireland in early July, his goal is to get that number up to 25. So far, his favorite places he's visited have been New York City, Miami and Chicago. "These are the places in America you always see on TV,"

Liggett says. "It's cool to think that I have been in the same places I've seen in a movie or on a TV show."

One huge difference Liggett has noticed in Americans is obviously our accents. "Literally everyone tries to imitate my accent," Liggett says. "Just because I have an accent people think it is okay to mock me," he jokes. Even though Liggett isn't too bothered by people impersonating him, it does, however, frustrate him when people can't understand his accent. And unfortunately, that happens more times than not.

Since he's been at Clarke it has been easy for Liggett to stay in touch with his friends and family back home by using Facebook, Twitter, and Skype. He usually makes time to Skype his family once every two weeks. In the future, Liggett plans on graduating from the Queen's University of Belfast with a major in geography.

"I have always been interested in the world," Liggett explains. "Geography is a subject which has allowed me to study both the physical and human elements of the earth." From there he wants to either continue with school and earn his Master's degree or take some time off and go traveling.

If Liggett does decide to travel, he will most likely come back to the States and possibly visit a few close friends he's made here at Clarke. Liggett is constantly questioned about how he ended up at

Clarke. He is participating in the Study USA program, formerly known as the Business Education Initiative (BEI). The program is sponsored by the British Council in association with the Department for Employment and Learning in Northern Ireland. The BEI began in 1995 to provide young students with an international experience in a multi-cultural and multi-racial county. Each year the program selects 75 students to study business-related subjects at a variety of U.S. colleges and universities.

Even though Liggett was expecting to be sent somewhere like New York or Chicago, he is still very happy that he made the choice to join the program. "I have had the chance to travel around America and I have made lots of friends," he says. The program tends to send the selected students to smaller colleges to give them a chance to make closer relationships with their professors and classmates.

Despite all of the differences he has experienced here, Liggett is still pleased with his placement at Clarke. He strongly encourages students to study abroad some time throughout their years at their college or university. "It's such a different experience. I was shocked at how many Americans don't even have a passport," Liggett says, "If you have the chance, take it. Just know you're not missing that much at home, and home will still be there."

## On the Street: What are your summer plans?

tia grap  
staff writer



**Amana Thompson, freshman nursing major:** "Going to Portland, Oregon and potentially meeting my birth parents."

**Ben Lehmkuhl, senior biology major:** "Saving money for med school."



**Samantha Reilly, sophomore marketing management major:** "I'm going to Six Flags with my boyfriend."

**Andrew Quam, senior business/finance major:** "I'm going into the real world and moving to Chesterton, Indiana"



## Kate Hendel to leave Clarke to take over BVM leadership post

matt roth  
campus life editor

This spring, at the end of the semester, Kate Hendel, BVM, will be leaving Clarke to become part of the BVM leadership team after 30 years at Clarke.

Hendel has served in many different capacities in her time here at Clarke. She has taught, chaired the music program, been director of general education, and currently is the Dean of Adult and Graduate Studies.

Hendel describes her time at Clarke as being great because of all the friends that she has made and the student success she has witnessed. "No single event stands out—but what comes to mind has to do with student success," Hendel said. "Whether in campus ministry, in teaching students in music courses or general education courses, in watching student performances or art exhibits, or attending an honors Cornerstone presentation—in



each of these situations I have memories of watching students who struggled at first, but then through hard work and perseverance, succeeded."

Hendel also elaborated upon the new challenges she will face as a member of the BVM leadership team. "I look forward to the same kind of opportunities—creative problem-solving, engaging in collaborative planning to meet the needs of those we serve, and to con-

tinuing to learn and grow."

Hendel went on to say that the best thing about Clarke is the people. "The collaborative community spirit among faculty, staff, and students at Clarke has inspired me since I arrived here over 30 years ago," she said. Hendel in particular cited her friendship with Graciela Caniero-Livingston, Dean of Undergraduate students and Joan Lingen, BVM, Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs. "Graciela and I have enjoyed great camaraderie as we deal with the many issues that cross the desk," Hendel stated. "Joan is the most amazing provost who supports and leads with such grace and wisdom, listening to and serving all who cross her path."

Hendel also said that she looks forward to the future but that leaving Clarke will be bittersweet for her.



May 4, 2012

## Blitgen set stage for drama department

pam steffensmeier  
editor

For 50 years, drama professor Carol Blitgen, BVM, Ph.D., has been helping Clarke actors and actresses achieve goals and dreams. Blitgen came to Clarke in 1962 as a BVM and has stayed ever since. She herself was a "Clarkie" and was in drama and music productions when she was a student.

Some of Blitgen's memorable moments at Clarke include porch parties with friends at her house and taking Clarke drama productions to the American College Theatre Festival.

"She helped raise the drama department to the standard of excellence that you see today," said senior drama major Joey Stamp. "Over her many, many years here she has continually challenged students to think and to learn and has inspired whole generations of young students," said Stamp.

Blitgen's quest for excellence and continual striving to do better has helped lead the drama department to several appearances and awards at the American College Theatre Festival.

The most recent ACTF winner was her production of "The Caretaker" under the direction of Blitgen. For this production, Austin Rae, junior drama major, was awarded national honors and Blitgen was honored for distinguished direction. The production was awarded Regional Honors as well for set design and for company effectiveness in the load-in and load-out of the set. For Blitgen, this was a good way to end her career in the Clarke drama department.

Blitgen has enjoyed her time here both as a student and faculty member and plans to continue to be a part of the Clarke community. "I have emotional ties here and hope to con-



tinue to help out with productions," she said.

"The biggest lesson that I think Carol has taught all of us in the drama department (and all those who have come through her classes in her time here at Clarke) is that the goal of the theatre should be to make art," said Max McNett, senior drama major. "Never censor yourself, never inhibit yourself; if you have something you want to say or a vision you want to share, GO FOR IT. That is something that will always stay with me, no matter what," said McNett.

Blitgen will again be seen in Terence Donaghoe Hall this fall directing the Tennessee Williams' classic, "The Glass Menagerie."

## Student opening act continued from page 1

As committed musicians, the two wanted to create a memorable performance for Clarke. The two performers received little sleep Thursday and Friday due to their excitement about the opportunity to take the stage. Brosnan and McNett had thirty minutes of music prepared for their opening performance that included songs from Kt Tunstall, Smokey Robinson, the Dixie Chicks, Civil Wars, Gotye, the Beatles, and Sugarland.

"Being the opening act for a well-known band was incredible," said Brosnan. "It's nice to get your name and face out there in front of such a large group of people, especially when you are received so amazingly with screams and cheers."

## Tree story continued from page 1

Trees, a symbol of strength and rebirth, are something that runs deep in Clarke history. In 1885 the legacy of the "pine walk" (located in front of Mary Jo and Mary Ben) began. William J. Knight donated 1000 pine seedlings and those trees and their descendants still grace our campus today. The tradition of each graduating class naming the tree's started in 1906. This tradition, over a hundred years old, began with Mary Bertrand Foley, BVM. The names of all the trees come with a different and interesting story. "Many of the tree names fall under six categories" says Norm Freund, chair of the philosophy department: "Mythology, Greek/Latin, values, historical reasons, humor, and pop culture"

So with Clarke having such a deep history with all the trees on campus, some of which still stand from when the school was founded, it only makes sense that Clarke has been named to this honor of being a Tree Campus.

"Once you put a plan in place, put a committee together, got a budget taken care of, that's what is needed for the future to keep it all going," said Beck. Clarke plans on continuing to be named a Tree Campus for many years to come.

## May Daze Fun



Seniors George Reed, Kelsey Gleich, and Beth Sherer take a ride down the "Hillbilly Barn Slide" during the May Daze festivities on April 28.

clarke courier



Students playing games during the May Daze festivities.



Thompson Square performed on April 27 in the Kehl Center as part of the May Daze festivities.



May 4, 2012

## Tyler Wills finds success at Clarke

Jazzy schillinger  
staff writer

Standing a towering 6'6" for Clarke's Men's volleyball team, freshman All-American Tyler Wills hails from the small town of Galeana, Illinois. Wills' high school did not have a boys' volleyball team and there were no boy's club teams anywhere near. Instead, he had to make a three-hour trip twice a week to practice with his club team in Milwaukee, with tournaments almost every weekend.

Wills was recruited to Clarke as a setter, and had been setting during practices at the beginning of the season, until the week of the first game. Head coach Kris Dorn then informed him he would be playing outside. After many line-up changes throughout the beginning of the season, Dorn finally stuck to one where Wills played outside and also set, depending on what rotation they were in.

"We had to move Tyler around, but he excelled in every situation we put him

in," says assistant coach Eric Plunkett, "Tyler has a high volleyball IQ, and I have no doubt that with his hard work and determination he will do great things here at Clarke."

Wills' hard work earned him the awards Freshman/Newcomer of the Year, First Team All-Conference, and NAIA All-American.

This year the team finished with a 15-12 record, with Wills being the only player to start all 27 matches. "Whenever our team had good energy, we played really well. We fed off of each other," says Wills.

Senior, Bobby Springer says, "Tyler is a great teammate and a friend of mine. He plays and knows the game like he has been playing in college for four years. It was a lot of fun to share the court with him."

Before their games the team would often play rock, paper, scissors. "As stupid as it sounds, it was a good way to get us pumped up before a

game," says Wills.

Wills has nothing but good things to say about the coaching staff, and even admits that it is one of the main reasons he chose to come to Clarke. Wills explained that in every practice, Coach Dorn has a purpose for each drill, getting them fully prepared for every game they play. When speaking of Coach JP, an All-American middle blocker for USC, he says, "She can relay all of her expertise about the position to us."

Lastly, of Coach Plunkett, who set for California Baptist and led his team to three national championships, "His mastery of the game has benefited not only the setters, but everyone

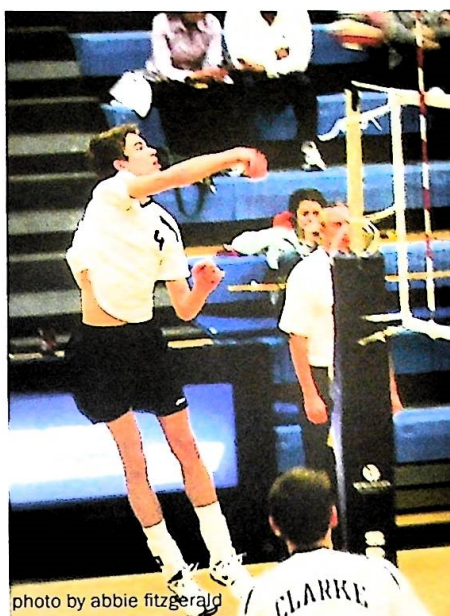


photo by abbie fitzgerald

else on the team," says Wills.

Wills says one of his favorite experiences of the season was both matches against Clarke's notorious rival, St. Ambrose. "While we lost both times, as a competitor, you want to

compete against the best and St. Ambrose is the best," Wills says. For the majority of the year, St. Ambrose was undefeated and the #1 NAIA team in the nation. Even though Clarke was defeated this year by the St. Ambrose Fight Bees Wills is still confident that they will be able to beat them next year.

As for next year, Wills is very assured that his team will have the talent to win every game. "We all need to work extremely hard in the off season and come in the first day of practice in October ready to bring home a nation championship, and then once our games start in January, stop at nothing until we have it," Wills says, "I came to Clarke in hope of bringing a nations championship home to Dubuque, and I hope that everyone on our team has the same outlook and determination that I have."

## Baseball, softball look to next season

tasha redmond  
staff writer

The softball and baseball seasons have finally come to a close this past week for the Clarke Crusaders. The Clarke women's softball team ended with a season of 9 and 31. The men's baseball team ended with an 11 and 31 record.

The men's baseball team started its season down in Missouri. They had a tough season with a fairly young team and with losing their coach three-fourths of the way through the season. Assistant coach Dan Spain took over as head coach for the remainder of

the season. After spring break the team struggled and started working on all aspects of its game.

"We started out our season well in Missouri, but after spring break we didn't win a game," said Matt Lozano, sophomore communication major and pitcher, "We tried to piece everything together and got our second win when Dan Spain took over, but the season was still a big letdown for me."

The softball team also had a challenging year with a roster of 13 and quite a few injuries. The team had a tough conference this year and played some tough teams on its spring break trip to Florida. The team has 12 returning players for next year with four recruits already signed and is hoping for a few more as well.

"I expected this year to be a battle until the very end, but we played some real good ball even though our record doesn't show it," said head coach Jaclyn Salzwedel.

With hopes of a stronger



season in the near future, the young team is ready to come back with vengeance.

"The season didn't go as well as I hoped it would, but it was still a great learning experience and a lot of fun," said Danielle Stralow, freshmen pitcher who also plays first base. "Next season we will be more comfortable with each other because we have already played a season together so our chemistry will be a lot better."

With challenging seasons this year the teams hope for better records in the next season.

## NEW WEIGHT ROOM HOURS

seth wieman  
staff writer

Clarke students wanted more hours in the weight room and their wish has come true. Last month the Clarke administration announced the weight room will now be open from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Many students had reached out and made it known that they wanted the weight room open longer.

This is great news for athletes like junior sports management/marketing major Dustin Sandburg "Now that the weight room is open longer I do not have to rush through my schoolwork; I now have enough time to get a great work out in every day."

It was not easy to get the hours changed. Some complications that came up were convincing the administration that there was enough student interest in the new hours.

Sandburg believes that the new hours in the weight room will suit everyone at Clarke and will make the room less crowded during daytime hours.



photo by seth wieman





May 4, 2012

## Business prof reflects on Clarke career

sam dugan  
staff writer

At the end of this spring semester, the Clarke community will say goodbye to another amazing faculty member, Wanda Ryan.

Ryan has been the chair of accounting & business, director of graduate business, and president of Faculty Senate at Clarke.

She is married to a local orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Charles Morrow and has one son and two step-daughters.

In addition, she lives with two dogs, two cats, and four chickens. Ryan has a second home in Arizona that she visits frequently.

Ryan began teaching at Clarke in 2001, prior to that she was the vice president of Human Resources/ Mission Services at Mercy Medical Center, and from 1989-1999, she taught at the University of Dubuque as an adjunct professor for their MBA program domestically and in Singapore and Hong Kong.

At Clarke, she is most proud of changing the masters of science management degree to a masters of business administration degree working with Kate Hendel, BVM, and



the Higher Learning Commission.

Ryan also helped establish the early access MBA program, which allows students with a 3.5 GPA to take graduate courses the last two semesters of their senior year that count toward their 124 undergraduate hours as well as toward the 36 hours for an MBA.

Ryan says she is most proud of her final contribution, her proposal of a second masters in leadership that is in the final stages of the approval process.

Ryan's plans after retirement are, as she would say, "enjoying my family, fly fishing, golfing, gardening and traveling between Arizona and Iowa with my husband."

She will also be teaching as an adjunct and will be collaborating with colleagues while conducting Organization Development initiatives. Ryan says she's "open to new opportunities as they evolve. I never planned the next phase of life, I have always been open to what may present itself and will follow my interests and intuition."

The thing she has enjoyed the most over the years at Clarke has been her students and colleagues and they will definitely be the things that she will miss the most.

## Senior reflects continue from page 2

I started to notice, even though the work load wasn't getting easier, college itself was becoming a routine and easier to manage. Morning lifting, class, work and then practice, was like clock work. I started getting involved in clubs on campus, going to school sponsored events. After the school year, based on a baseball driven decision, I left Dakota Wesleyan University and accepted a scholarship to Clarke.

My junior year, my first year at Clarke, was a brand new start over for me, new school, new city, new people, I felt like a freshman all over again. New professors to learn about, new people to meet and a new team to play for and I also switched majors from criminal justice to communication. ATTENTION UNDERCLASSMEN: this is the year where you start applying for internships. I failed to do this and have yet to get an internship, so please take

my advice and start looking.

My senior year has been a rollercoaster ride. I was injured all baseball season, so I will be returning to finish my degree and play my senior season for baseball, but I have finished all requirements but one major class and a science class. Once again, underclassmen, take your science as soon as you possibly can, because it will come back and haunt you if you wait until your last semester of college.

I have looked back even on my Facebook, and have seen how much I have changed since freshman year. I have been blessed to meet many different people in college from California, South Dakota and now Iowa and many people from different countries and from small towns I never knew existed. College has been a great experience, and my final advice to all of you underclassmen. Be cool, stay in school.

# simplify next semester



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